

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Listing of claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A method of managing electric power generators, comprising the steps of:

(a) a managing device transmitting, via the Internet to either an electric power generator to be managed or an electric-power-generator-end communications device connected to an electric power generator to be managed, a request for a transmission of generated power quantity information for the electric power generator, the generated power quantity information being an information indicative of a power quantity which has been generated in the electric power generator;

(b) either the electric power generator or the communications device transmitting the generated power quantity information indicating a generated power quantity for the electric power generator back to the managing device in response to the request;

(c) the managing device storing the generated power quantity information into a database in association with the electric power generator which transmitted back the generated power quantity information or the electric power generator to which is connected the communications device which transmitted back the generated power quantity information; and

(d) the managing device deciding a timing to transmit a request for a transmission of generated power quantity information for the electric power generators so that timings of transmitting the generated power quantity informations disperse to avoid crowdedness of communication due to transmission of the generated power quantity information from the plural electric power generators.

2. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of (e) the managing device determining whether the electric power generator corresponding to the generated power quantity information stored in step (c) is broken or suffering a reduction in power generation capability on the basis of the generated power quantity information.

3. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein:
the electric power generator is a solar cell; and
step (c) includes the step of (f) obtaining weather information indicating weather at a location of the electric power generator to store the weather information into the database, together with the generated power quantity information for the electric power generator.
4. (Original) The method of claim 3, wherein:
in step (b), the electric power generator or the communications device transmits back weather information at a location of the electric power generator together with the generated power quantity information; and
in step (f), the managing device stores the weather information transmitted back.
5. (Original) The method of claim 3, further comprising the step of (g) the managing device predicting a generated power quantity for the electric power generator corresponding to the weather information stored in step (c) on the basis of the weather information.
6. (Original) The method of claim 5, further comprising the step of (h) the managing device determining whether the electric power generator corresponding to the generated power quantity information stored in step (c) is broken or suffering a reduction in power generation capability on the basis of the generated power quantity information and the generated power quantity as predicted in step (g).
7. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the electric power generator is a solar cell,
the method further comprising the steps of:
(i) the managing device obtaining location information indicating locations of electric power generators to be managed to divide the electric power generators into

groups according the location information, each group consisting of those generators located at the same location; and

(j) the managing device comparing the generated power quantity information, stored in step (c), for those electric power generators divided into the same group in step (i) in order to determine whether any of the electric power generators is broken or suffering a reduction in power generation capability.

8. (Original) The method of claim 7, wherein in step (b), the electric power generator or the communications device transmits back location information at a location of the electric power generator together with the generated power quantity information.

9. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein in step (b), the electric power generator or the communications device transmits back identification information by which the electric power generator corresponding to generated power quantity information is identified, together with the generated power quantity information.

10. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the generated power quantity information includes generated power quantity information for individual modules constituting the electric power generator.

11. (Canceled)

12. (Currently Amended) A computer program causing a computer to operate as a managing device for electric power generators, the computer program causing the computer to execute the steps of:

(k) transmitting, via the Internet to either an electric power generator to be managed or an electric-power-generator-end communications device connected to an electric power generator to be managed, a request for a transmission of generated power quantity information for the electric power generator, the generated power

quantity information being an information indicative of a power quantity which has been generated in the electric power generator;

(l) registering the generated power quantity information into a database in association with the electric power generator or the communications device upon transmitting the generated power quantity information back from the electric power generator or the communications device;

(m) deciding a timing to transmit a request for a transmission in step (k) so that timings of transmitting the generated power quantity informations disperse to avoid crowdedness of communication due to transmission of the generated power quantity information from the plural electric power generators.

13-15. (Canceled)

16. (Currently Amended) A computer program causing a computer in an electric power generator to execute the steps of:

(o) receiving a request for a transmission addressed to the electric power generator via the Internet from a managing device having timing decision means for deciding timings to transmit a request for a transmission of generated power quantity information for electric power generators to be managed so that timings of transmitting the generated power quantity information disperse to avoid crowdedness of communication due to transmission of the generated power quantity information from the plural electric power generators; and

(p) transmitting generated power quantity information indicating a generated power quantity for which has been generated in the electric power generator back to the managing device in response to the request.

17-19. (Canceled)

20. (Currently Amended) A computer program causing a computer connectable to an electric power generator to operate as a communications device, the computer program causing the computer to execute the steps of:

(q) receiving a request for a transmission addressed to the communications device via the Internet from a managing device having timing decision means for deciding timings to transmit a request for a transmission of generated power quantity information for electric power generators to be managed so that timings of transmitting the generated power quantity informations disperse to avoid crowdedness of communication due to transmission of the generated power quantity information from the plural electric power generators; and

(r) transmitting generated power quantity information indicating a generated power quantity for which has been generated in the electric power generator connected to the communications device back to the managing device in response to the request.

21-25. (Canceled)

26. (New) The method of claim 1, wherein the managing device transmits one request for a transmission of generated power quantity information to a predetermined number of one group of the electric power generators and waits for a predetermined period of time before transmitting another request for a transmission of generated power quantity information to a predetermined number of another group of the electric power generators so that the number of the electric power generators which receive the request for transmission of the generated power quantity information does not exceed a predetermined value.

27. (New) The method of claim 1, wherein the managing device delays transmission of the request for transmission of the generated power quantity information if workload due to the request exceeds a predetermined value.

28. (New) The method of claim 1, wherein the managing device transmits the request for transmission of the generated power quantity information with avoiding a time period specified in advance as heavy workload due to the request exceeds a predetermined value.
29. (New) The method of claim 12, wherein the managing device transmits one request for a transmission of generated power quantity information to a predetermined number of one group of the electric power generators and waits for a predetermined period of time before transmitting another request for a transmission of generated power quantity information to a predetermined number of another group of the electric power generators so that the number of the electric power generators which receive the request for transmission of the generated power quantity information does not exceed a predetermined value.
30. (New) The method of claim 12, wherein the managing device delays transmission of the request for transmission of the generated power quantity information if workload due to the request exceeds a predetermined value.
31. (New) The method of claim 12, wherein the managing device transmits the request for transmission of the generated power quantity information with avoiding a time period specified in advance as heavy workload due to the request exceeds a predetermined value.
32. (New) The method of claim 16, wherein the managing device transmits one request for a transmission of generated power quantity information to a predetermined number of one group of the electric power generators and waits for a predetermined period of time before transmitting another request for a transmission of generated power quantity information to a predetermined number of another group of the electric power generators so that the number of the electric power generators which receive the

request for transmission of the generated power quantity information does not exceed a predetermined value.

33. (New) The method of claim 16, wherein the managing device delays transmission of the request for transmission of the generated power quantity information if workload due to the request exceeds a predetermined value.

34. (New) The method of claim 16, wherein the managing device transmits the request for transmission of the generated power quantity information with avoiding a time period specified in advance as heavy workload due to the request exceeds a predetermined value.

35. (New) The method of claim 20, wherein the managing device transmits one request for a transmission of generated power quantity information to a predetermined number of one group of the electric power generators and waits for a predetermined period of time before transmitting another request for a transmission of generated power quantity information to a predetermined number of another group of the electric power generators so that the number of the electric power generators which receive the request for transmission of the generated power quantity information does not exceed a predetermined value.

36. (New) The method of claim 20, wherein the managing device delays transmission of the request for transmission of the generated power quantity information if workload due to the request exceeds a predetermined value.

37. (New) The method of claim 20, wherein the managing device transmits the request for transmission of the generated power quantity information with avoiding a time period specified in advance as heavy workload due to the request exceeds a predetermined value.